

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
SAN FRANCISCO BAY REGION

UNCONTESTED

STAFF SUMMARY REPORT (Beth Christian)
MEETING DATE: August 20, 2003

ITEM: 5D

SUBJECT: **Carneros River Ranch North West and North Central Fields
Petaluma, Sonoma County
Dredged Material Dredged Material and Fill Placement
Negative Declaration and Initial Study
Waste Discharge Requirements, Water Quality Certification and
Rescission of Order 98-012**

CHRONOLOGY: Waste Discharge Requirements were issued in 1998

DISCUSSION: Carneros River Ranch (the Discharger) proposes to place up to 663,000 cubic yards of dredged material or other fill onto 180 acres of diked and drained former bayland at the 540 acre Carneros River Ranch located near the mouth of the Petaluma River in the Sears Point area of unincorporated Sonoma County. The property is subject to an agricultural conservation easement benefiting the Sonoma Land Trust which limits use of the site to activities "producing food and fiber." The placement of fill will raise elevations of the fields to approximately +2 feet NGVD, which the Discharger estimates will improve agricultural production by raising crop roots beyond the influence of saline shallow groundwater. Oat hay and wheat crops have been successfully grown on a portion of this site that received approximately 320,000 cubic yards of dredged material from the nearby Port Sonoma Marina in 1998. Post placement monitoring has shown that soil conditions remain suitable for the subsequent agricultural use of the land.

This Tentative Order provides requirements for the operation and maintenance of the site, as well as monitoring and reporting requirements, including effluent limits, for dredged material return flow (decant water) and for shallow groundwater.

The Corps of Engineers has reviewed the Discharger's wetlands delineation and concur that there are no Clean Water Act Section 404 seasonal wetlands on the portions of the site that are to receive dredged material fill. The Corps and the Discharger agree that portions of the site are historic Rivers and Harbors Act Section 10 jurisdiction (i.e. former marsh channels) that were diked and converted to agricultural use in the last century and no longer have seasonal wetlands. Regional Board staff concur with the Corps of Engineers assessment.

The Board, as a participant in the Long-Term Management Strategy for the placement of dredged material in the San Francisco Bay Region, is committed to reducing the in-bay disposal of dredged material and

recognizes the need to foster economically and environmentally sound disposal and beneficial reuse alternatives. The Tentative Order helps accomplish this goal by permitting the Discharger to beneficially reuse dredged material at an upland site in a manner that will not result in significant adverse effects to the environment.

The Marin Audubon Society submitted written comments regarding the Tentative Order. Staff have made minor changes to the Order to address these comments as appropriate.

RECOMMEN-

DATION:

File Number:

Appendices:

Adoption of the Tentative Order

2149.4033 (EAC)

A – Draft Negative Declaration and Initial Study

B – Tentative Order

C – Response to Comments

A – TENTATIVE ORDER

**CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
SAN FRANCISCO BAY REGION**

TENTATIVE ORDER NO. R2-2003-XXXX

**WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS, WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION AND
RESCISSION OF ORDER 98-012 FOR:**

**CARNEROS RIVER RANCH, NORTH WEST AND NORTH CENTRAL FIELDS
DREDGED MATERIAL AND FILL PLACEMENT
SONOMA COUNTY**

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Francisco Bay Region, hereinafter referred to as the Board, finds that:

1. This Order will serve as Waste Discharge Requirements and Water Quality Certification under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act for disposal of dredged material on two agricultural fields operated by Carneros River Ranch (hereinafter referred to as "the Discharger"). As the property is subject to an agricultural conservation easement benefiting the Sonoma Land Trust limiting use of the property to activities "producing food and fiber," the fields will be returned to agricultural production at the end of this project.
2. This Order provides requirements for operation and maintenance of the disposal site. This Order also provides monitoring and reporting requirements, including effluent limits, for return flow (decant water) from the dredged material disposal areas and for shallow groundwater.

Site Description

3. The Carneros River Ranch is located near the mouth of the Petaluma River, in the Sears Point area of unincorporated Sonoma County (Figure 1). It includes about 540 acres of low-lying agricultural fields where hay is farmed. The specific disposal locations at Carneros River Ranch are the North West and the North Central fields (Figure 2). The area was formerly part of San Francisco Bay, but was diked and drained in the late 1800's. The elevation of the agricultural fields vary, with an average elevation in the North West field of -2 feet (NGVD 29), and in the North Central field of 0.5 feet elevation (NGVD 29). The fields are drained by ditches that flow to pumps that drain to the Petaluma River on the ranch's western border. There are Section 404 wetlands in the ditch along the ranch's western border, but not in either of the locations where fill will be placed.
4. The placement of fill will raise the elevations of the fields to approximately +2 feet (NGVD 29). The Discharger anticipates that this elevation will improve agricultural production on the fields by raising crop roots beyond the influence of saline shallow groundwater that underlies the ranch.

Project Description

5. The Discharger will dispose of up to 663,000 cubic yards (cy) of dredged material or other fill at two agricultural fields at the Carneros River Ranch. The Discharger has already identified

dredging projects as sources for some of the fill, as described in Table 1, below. The remaining fill may be additional dredged material, or may be from other sources.

Table 1. Sources of planned dredged material fill for agricultural fields at Carneros River Ranch.

Disposal Location	Volume	Source of Dredged Material
North West Field	300,000 cy	Bel Marin Keys North Lagoon - 35,000 cy Remaining capacity - 165,000 cy
North Central Field	363,000 cy	Port Sonoma Marina - 120,000 cy Remaining capacity - 243,000 cy

6. Bel Marin Keys is a waterfront community in northeastern Marin County (Figure 3). The community consists of approximately 700 waterfront homes on two manmade lagoons and Novato Creek.
7. Port Sonoma Marina is located on the east side of the Petaluma River, near its mouth at San Pablo Bay, in Sonoma County (Figure 4). It is owned and operated by Port Sonoma Associates, LLC. Typically, sediment dredged from the marina is dried in one of four on-site dredged material drying ponds, and then eventually taken offsite and reused as construction fill or landfill daily cover. Dredging was not performed in 2002, and the amount of sediment that has accumulated is more than can be handled at the existing drying ponds. Therefore, the Discharger will dispose of maintenance dredging material from the marina at the North Central field.
8. The disposal of dredged material from Bel Marin Keys, Port Sonoma Marina, and any other sources is subject to Executive Officer approval of the suitability of the material for use on the agricultural fields (Provision E.1.).
9. The Bel Marin Keys and Port Sonoma Marina dredging projects will be carried out using hydraulic dredging equipment. A slurry containing 70% water and 30% solids will be pumped through a flexible pipeline from the dredging location directly to ponds on the agricultural fields. Excess water will dry by evaporation and, if necessary, may be discharged from the ponds.
10. The disposal ponds will be constructed at the North West and North Central fields by building seven foot high berms using on-site material from the perimeter of the fields. The berms will be designed to contain the dredged material and associated water, and allowing for a minimum of two feet of freeboard at all times.
11. Each pond will have one weir box, through which decant water may be discharged into the adjacent drainage ditch (Figure 2). Weir boxes will be located as far from dredged material discharge locations to allow for maximum settling time before discharge.

Related Activities

12. Regional Board Order No. 98-012 authorized disposal of 320,000 cy of dredged material from Port Sonoma Marina at the North Central field. Dredging was carried out in the summer of

1998. The dredged material was allowed to dry for one year, then the field was plowed and planted with a salt-tolerant barley crop, which grew successfully. In the following years oat hay and wheat were planted, both of which were successful. Post project monitoring has shown that soil conditions remain suitable for the subsequent agricultural use of the land. This project is complete; Order 98-012 is rescinded by Provision E.12 of this Order.

13. Regional Board Order 01-060 authorizes maintenance dredging at Port Sonoma Marina and regulates discharge from the four on-site drying ponds.
14. Regional Board Order No. R2-2003-0030 authorizes maintenance dredging of sediment from Bel Marin Keys and construction and use of an adjacent dredged material rehandling site.

Water Quality Concerns

15. Impacts to water quality resulting from dredged material placement at the rehandling/disposal site are expected to be minimal at worst and would be mostly related to the potential for suspended solids in the decant water to cause excess turbidity in the vicinity of the discharge point in the Petaluma River.
16. Impacts to water quality from possible contamination in dredged sediments are expected to be negligible because the suitability of dredged sediments for placement on agricultural fields will be evaluated prior to placement at the project site
17. Monitoring of shallow groundwater in the vicinity of the 1998 dredged material placement does not show impacts from the placement.
18. The disposal site does not contain viable habitat for any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local/regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Beneficial Uses

19. The North West and North Central fields are drained by ditches which in turn drain (via pumping station) to the Petaluma River, a tributary of San Francisco Bay. Decant water generated during dredged material drying will be discharged directly to the drainage ditch then to the Petaluma River. The beneficial uses of the waters of the Petaluma River near the North West and North Central fields, as set forth in the Basin Plan, are as follows:
 - a. Cold Freshwater Habitat
 - b. Marine Habitat
 - c. Fish Migration
 - d. Navigation
 - e. Preservation of Rare and Endangered Species
 - f. Water Contact Recreation
 - g. Non-Contact Water Recreation
 - h. Fish Spawning
 - i. Warm Freshwater Habitat
 - j. Wildlife Habitat

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Compliance

20. The Regional Board certified and filed a Negative Declaration for this project with the State Clearinghouse on August 20, 2003. The Board found that the project will not result in significant environmental impacts.

21. The action to adopt Waste Discharge Requirements and Water Quality Certification for this project is exempt from the provisions of CEQA, in accordance with Section 15301, Title 14, California Administrative Code.

Additional Findings

22. The Board adopted a revised Water Quality Control Plan for the San Francisco Bay Basin (Basin Plan) on June 21, 1995. This plan was approved by the State Water Resources Control Board and the Office of Administrative Law on July 20 and November 13, 1995, respectively. USEPA approved this Plan and a subsequent amendment in May 2000. A summary of regulatory provisions is contained in Title 23 of the California Code of Regulations, section 3912. The Basin Plan defines beneficial uses and water quality objectives for waters of the State, including surface waters and groundwaters. This Order is in compliance with the Basin Plan.
23. The specifications and limitations in these requirements are based on the plans, policies, and water quality objectives of the Basin Plan, Quality Criteria for Water (EPA440/5-86-001, 1986; Gold Book and 63 Federal Register 68354, December 10, 1998), Applicable Federal Regulations (40 CFR Parts 122 and 131), the National Toxics Rule (57 FR 60848, 22 December, 1992; NTR), California Toxics Rule (40 CFR Parts 131), and Best Professional Judgment.
24. The Discharger has applied for USACE individual permits, USACE File Nos. 22397N and 27202N.
25. This certification action is subject to modification or revocation upon administrative or judicial review, including review and amendment pursuant to Section 13330 of the CWC and Section 3867 of Title 23 of the California Code of Regulations (23 CCR).
26. This certification action is not intended and shall not be construed to apply to any discharge from any activity involving a hydroelectric facility requiring a Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) license or an amendment to a FERC license unless the pertinent certification application was filed pursuant to 23 CCR Subsection 3855(b) and that application specifically identified that a FERC license or amendment to a FERC license for a hydroelectric facility was being sought.
27. The Regional Board has notified the Discharger and interested agencies and persons of its intent to prescribe Waste Discharge Requirements for this discharge.
28. The Regional Board, in a public meeting on August 20, 2003, heard and considered all comments pertaining to the discharge.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Carneros River Ranch, in order to meet the provisions contained in Division 7 of the California Water Code and regulations adopted there under, shall comply with the following:

A. DISCHARGE PROHIBITIONS:

1. The direct discharge of wastes to surface waters or surface water drainage courses is prohibited, except as authorized in this Order.
2. The discharge shall not cause degradation of any water supply.

3. The dredged material shall remain within all the designated disposal areas at all times.
4. The activities subject to these requirements shall not cause a condition of pollution or nuisance as defined in Sections 13050 (l) and (m), respectively, of the California Water Code.

B. DISCHARGE SPECIFICATIONS

1. Appropriate soil erosion control measures shall be undertaken and maintained to prevent discharge of sediment to surface waters or surface water drainage courses. Appropriate erosion control measures shall be taken to stabilize and prevent erosion from the outsides of the containment berms. Dredged material shall be fully contained to prevent any wind transport, surface runoff or erosion into waters of the state. At no point within the containment area shall the elevation of sediment exceed that of the containment levees.
2. The integrity of the dredged material transport pipeline shall be maintained along its entire length from the intake at the suction dredge to the point of discharge into the containment area at the rehandling/disposal site. At no point other than the designated discharge point shall water or sediment be allowed to leak from or be intentionally released from the pipeline.
3. In accordance with Section 13260 of the California Water Code, the Discharger shall file a report with this Regional Board of any material change or proposed change in the character, location, or volume of the discharge. Any proposed material change in the operation shall be reported to the Executive Officer at least 7 days in advance of implementation of any such proposal.
4. The responsible representative of the Discharger shall immediately notify the Regional Board staff by telephone whenever an adverse condition occurs as a result of this discharge. An adverse condition includes, but is not limited to, a violation or threatened violation of the conditions of this Order, significant spill of petroleum products or toxic chemicals, or damage to control facilities that could affect compliance. Pursuant to Section 13267(b) of the California Water Code, a written notification of the adverse condition shall be submitted to the Regional Board within 30 days of occurrence. The written notification shall identify the adverse condition, describe the actions necessary to remedy the condition, and specify a timetable, subject to the modifications of the Regional Board, for the remedial actions.

C. EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS

Dredged material effluent (decant water) discharged from any point within the disposal site shall not exceed the following limits at any time:

1. pH 6.5 – 8.5
2. Dissolved Sulfide 0.1 mg/L
3. Total Suspended Solids 100 mg/L

D. RECEIVING WATER LIMITATIONS

1. The placement of sediments and/or decant water shall not cause the following conditions to exist in waters of the State at any place:

- a. Floating, suspended or deposited macroscopic particulate matter or foam;
 - b. Visible floating, suspended, or deposited oil or other products of petroleum origin;
 - c. Bottom deposits or aquatic growths to the extent that such deposits or growths cause nuisance or adversely affect beneficial uses; and
 - d. Alteration of temperature, turbidity, or apparent color beyond present natural background levels.
2. The placement of dredge material shall not cause the following limits to be exceeded in waters of the State at any point:

- a. Dissolved Oxygen 5.0 mg/l minimum.
When natural factors cause lesser concentrations, then this discharge shall not cause further reduction in the concentration of dissolved oxygen.
- b. Dissolved sulfide 0.1 mg/l maximum
- c. pH Variation from natural ambient pH by more than 0.5 pH units.
- d. Un-ionized ammonia 0.025 mg/l as N Annual Median
0.16 mg/l as N Maximum
- e. Toxic or other deleterious substances None shall be present in concentrations or quantities which may cause deleterious effects on aquatic biota, wildlife, or waterfowl, or which render any of these unfit for human consumption either at levels created in the receiving waters or as a result of biological concentrations.
- f. Total Dissolved Solids The project shall not increase total dissolved solids or salinity to adversely affect beneficial uses.

3. Turbidity shall not exceed background of the Waters of the State, as measured in NTU, as follows:

Receiving Water Background	Incremental Increase
< 50 units	5 units, maximum
50-100 units	10 units maximum
>100 units	10% of background, maximum

4. The discharge shall not cause a violation of any particular water quality standard for receiving waters adopted by the Board or the State Board as required by the Clean Water Act and regulations adopted thereunder. If more stringent applicable water quality standards are promulgated or approved pursuant to Section 303 of the Clean Water Act, or amendments thereto, the Board will revise and modify this Order in accordance with such more stringent standards.

E. PROVISIONS

1. Data characterizing the quality of dredged sediments proposed for placement at the North West and North Central fields shall be submitted for Regional Board staff review and approval prior to placement. This review should be coordinated through the multi-agency Dredged Material Management Office, of which the Regional Board is a member. Sediment characterization shall follow the protocols specified in U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Public Notice 01-01 (or most current guidance), unless explicitly exempted in writing by the Executive Officer. Sediment characterization shall also include testing for leachable metals using the Title 22 Waste Extraction Test (WET) procedure (California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Division 4.5, Article 5, Section 66261.126, Appendix II: Waste Extraction Test Procedures). The WET procedure may be modified to use deionized water in place of the citrate buffer. Other extraction procedures may be used, with approval by Regional Board staff. Modifications to these procedures may be approved on a case-by-case basis.
2. The Discharger shall conduct monitoring activities according to the Self-Monitoring and Reporting Program (SMP) attached to this Order and as may be amended by the Executive Officer. At any time after adoption of this Order, the Discharger may file a written request proposing modifications to the attached SMP. If the proposed modifications are acceptable, the Executive Officer may issue a letter of approval incorporating the revisions into the SMP.
3. The Discharger shall notify the Regional Board immediately whenever violations of this Order are detected.
4. All reports following these Provisions shall be prepared under the supervision of a registered civil engineer or certified engineering geologist.
5. The discharge of any hazardous waste, as defined in Title 23, Chapter 15 of the California Administrative Code, to the disposal site is prohibited.
6. Only dredged material that has been demonstrated to be non-hazardous and meets the applicable guidelines and criteria specified in this Order may be discharged at the North West and North Central fields.
7. The Discharger shall remove and relocate any wastes that are discharged at this site in violation of these Requirements.
8. The Discharger shall file with the Board a report of any material change or proposed change in the character, location, or quantity of this waste discharge. For the purpose of these requirements, this includes any proposed change in the boundaries of the disposal areas or the ownership of the site.
9. The Discharger shall maintain a copy of this Order at the site to be available at all times to site operating personnel.
10. The Discharger shall permit the Board or its authorized representative, upon presentation of credentials:
 - Entry on to the premises on which wastes are located or in which records are kept.
 - Access to copy any records required to be kept under the terms and conditions of this Order.

- Inspection of any treatment equipment, monitoring equipment or monitoring method.
 - Sampling of any discharge or surface water covered by this Order.
11. These Requirements do not authorize commission of any act causing injury to the property of another or of the public; do not convey any property rights; do not remove liability under federal, state or local laws, regulations or rules of other programs and agencies nor do these Requirements authorize the discharge of wastes without appropriate permits from other agencies or organizations.
 12. This Order supersedes Order 98-012. Order No. 98-012 is hereby rescinded.
 13. This Order expires ten years from the date of issuance.

I, Loretta K. Barsamian, Executive Officer, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of an Order adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Francisco Bay Region, on August 20, 2003.

LORETTA K. BARSAMIAN

Executive Officer

Attachment:

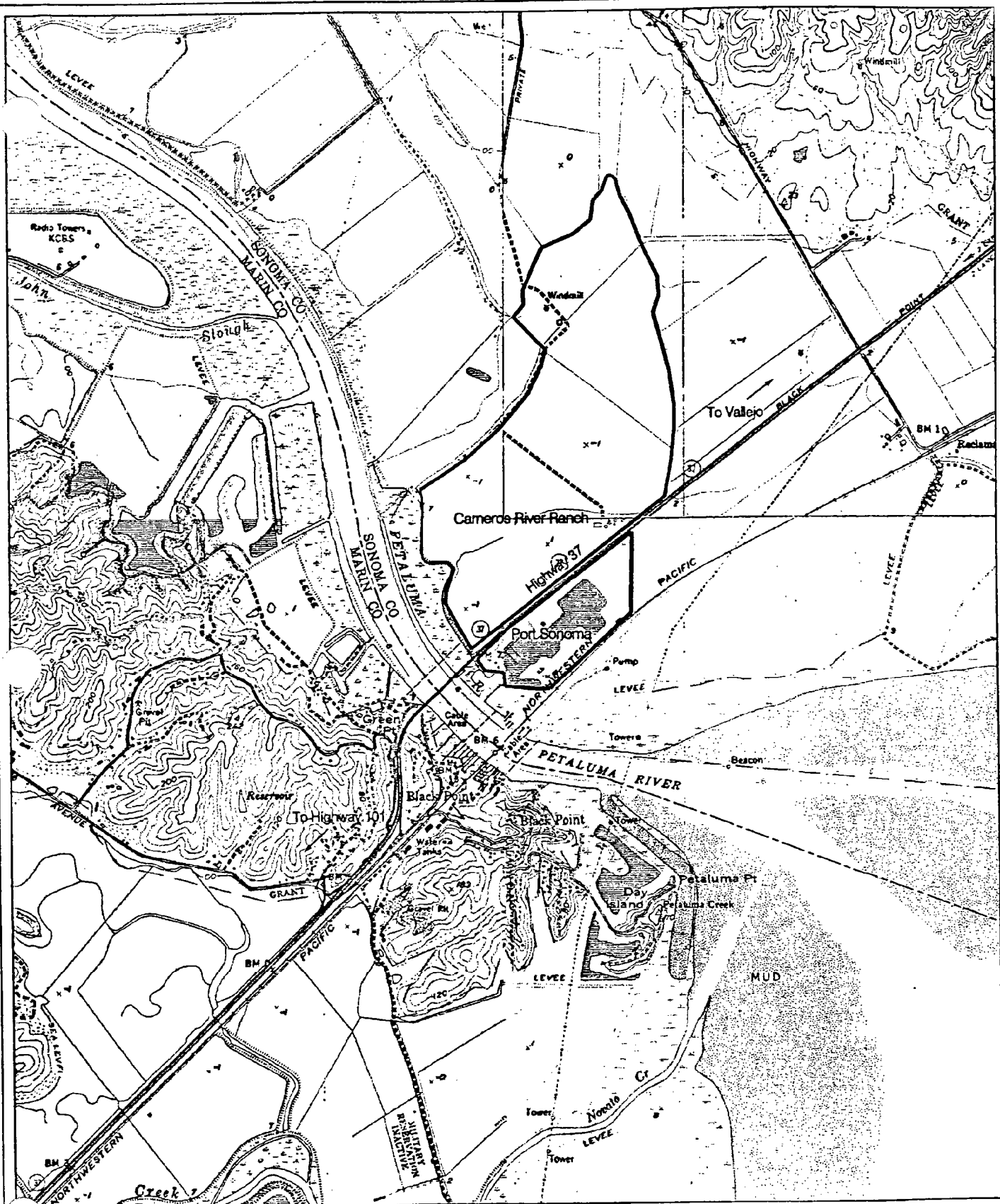
Figure 1 – Project Location Map

Figure 2 – North West and North Central Fields

Figure 3 – Location Map – Bel Marin Keys

Figure 4 – Location Map – Port Sonoma Marina

Self Monitoring and Reporting Program



ict Number: 755 SBA

Source: USGS 7.5 min.

Quad: Petaluma

Date: 5/14/03



Approximate Scale

0 2000' 4000'



Figure 1. Project Location Map

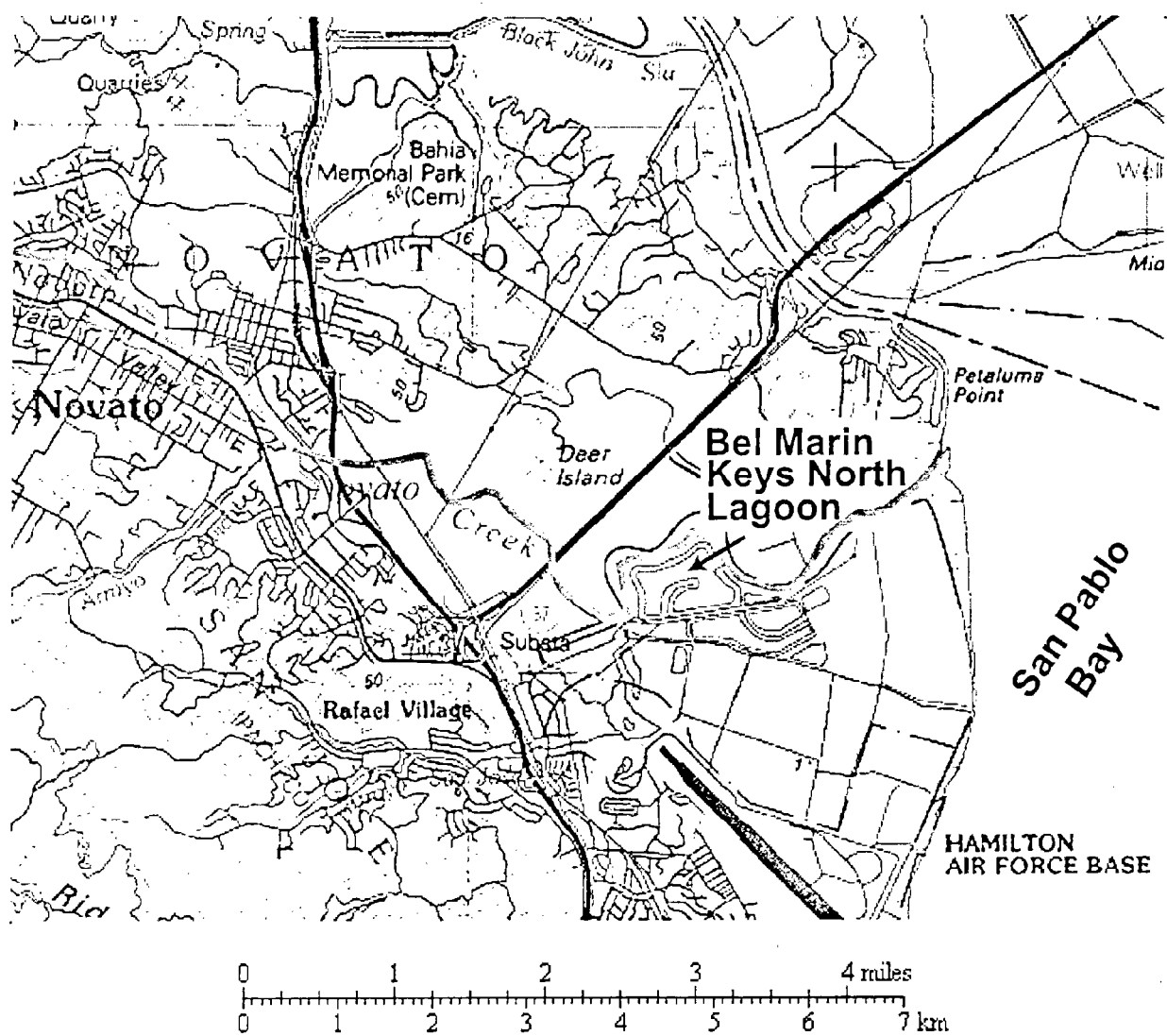
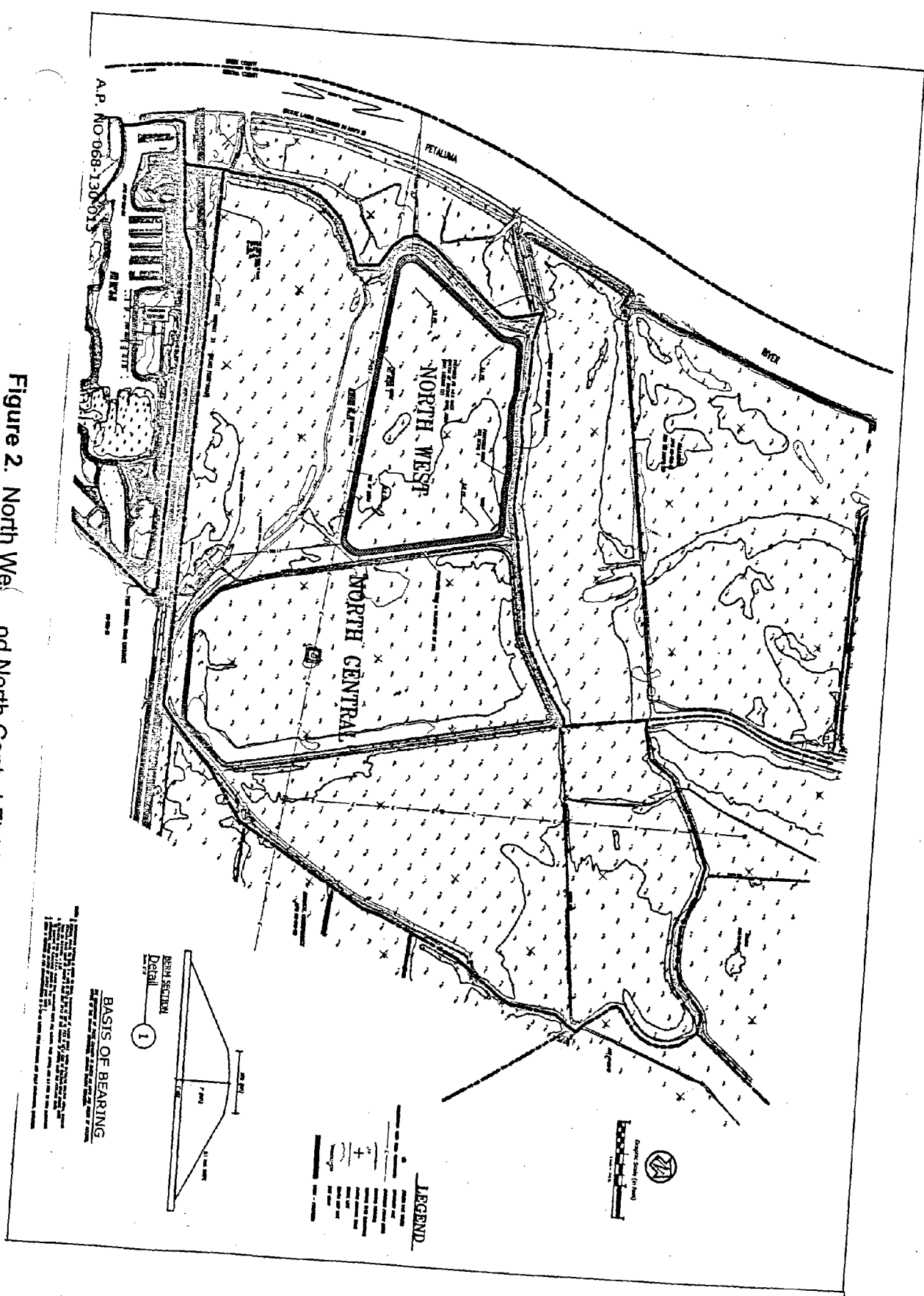


Figure 3. Location Map – Bel Marin Keys

Figure 2. North West and North Central Fields



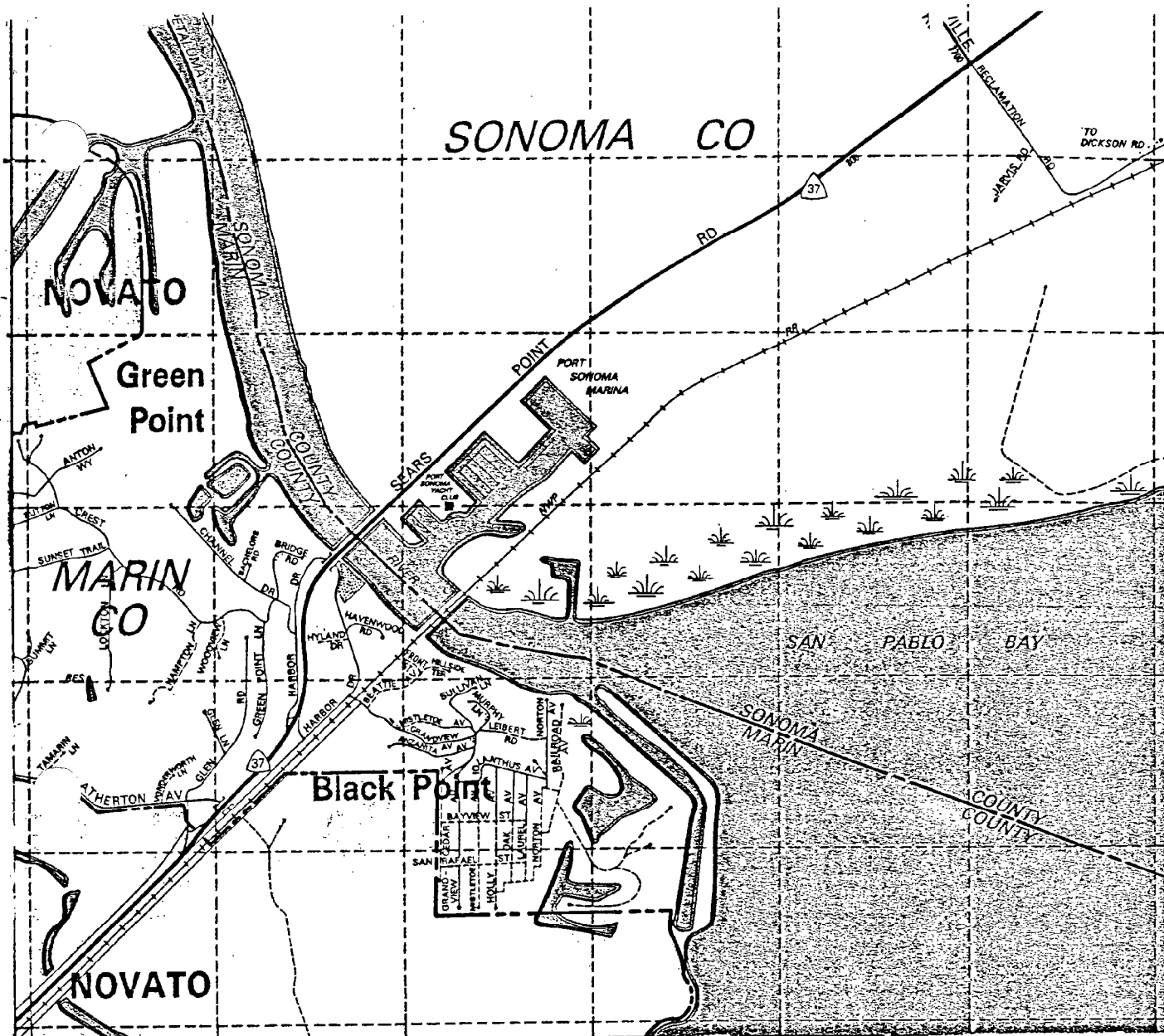


Figure 4. Location Map – Port Sonoma Marina

**CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
SAN FRANCISCO BAY REGION**

**SELF-MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM
FOR**

**CARNEROS RIVER RANCH
NORTH WEST AND NORTH CENTRAL FIELDS
DREDGED MATERIAL AND FILL PLACEMENT**

SONOMA COUNTY

ORDER NO. R2-2003-XXXX

CONSISTS OF

PART A

AND

PART B

PART A

A. GENERAL

1. Reporting responsibilities of waste dischargers are specified in Sections 13225(a), 13267(b), 13383, and 13387(b) of the California Water Code and this Regional Board's Resolution No. 73-16. This Self-Monitoring Program is issued in accordance with Provision E.3 of Regional Board Order No. R2-2003-XXXX.
2. The principal purposes of a discharge monitoring program are: (1) to document compliance with waste discharge requirements and prohibitions established by the Board, (2) to facilitate self-policing by the waste dischargers in the prevention and abatement of pollution arising from waste discharge, (3) to develop or assist in the development of standards of performance and toxicity standards, (4) to assist the dischargers in complying with the requirements of the California Code of Regulations.

B. SAMPLING AND ANALYTICAL METHODS

1. Sample collection, storage, and analyses shall be performed according to the most recent version of EPA Standard Methods for the Analysis of Water and Wastewater
2. Water and sediment analysis shall be performed by a laboratory approved for these analyses by the State of California. The director of the laboratory whose name appears on the certification shall supervise all analytical work in his/her laboratory and shall sign all reports of such work submitted to the Regional Board.
3. All monitoring instruments and equipment shall be properly calibrated and maintained to ensure accuracy of measurements.

C. DEFINITION OF TERMS

1. A **grab sample** is a discrete sample collected at any time.
2. **Decant Water**, also known as overlying water, or return water, is the water entrained with the sediment particles during dredging. After suspended sediment concentrations have been reduced through discrete settling in the North West and North Central fields, the clarified decant water may ultimately be discharge to a drainage ditch then to the Petaluma River.
3. **Receiving waters** refers to any waterbody that actually or potentially receives surface or groundwater, which passes over, through, or under dredged sediment during placement, dewatering, and settling/consolidation activities. The drainage ditch running along the west side of the property is considered the immediate receiving water body for the decant water discharge.
4. A **dredged material placement episode** consists of continuous dredged material slurry placement in the retention ponds that stops for no more than 30 consecutive days. If placement stops for more than 30 consecutive days and then starts up again, the date of start-up will be considered the beginning of a new dredged material placement episode for monitoring purposes.
5. **Receiving Waters Standard Observations** refer to:
 - a. Evidence of floating and suspended materials generated by project activities, as recorded by visual observations.
 - b. Discoloration and turbidity: description of color, source, and size of affected area.

- c. Evidence of odors, presence or absence, characterization, source, and distance of travel from source.
6. **Site Standard Observations** refer to visual inspection of:
- a. The overall condition and integrity of the perimeter containment berms.
 - b. The location of placed material, amount of freeboard available, and whether any discharge of dredged sediments outside of the containment levees has occurred.
 - c. The overall condition and integrity of the dredged material effluent (decant water) discharge weir.
 - d. The overall condition and integrity of the dredged material transport pipeline along its entire length from the intake at the suction dredge to the point of discharge into the containment area.
7. **Decant Water Monitoring** refers to:
- a. Analyses as described in Table 1, below

Table 1. Standard Analyses for Receiving Water Monitoring

Constituent	Units
Dissolved Oxygen	mg/l
Dissolved Sulfide	mg/l
pH	Std units
Un-ionized Ammonia	mg/l
Turbidity	NTU

- b. Any additional analyses required by the Board on a case-by-case basis if it is determined that there is a potential for receiving water limits to be exceeded
8. **Shallow Groundwater Monitoring** refers to:
- a. Analyses as described in Table 2, below

Table 2. Standard Analyses for Shallow Groundwater Monitoring

Constituent	Units
Dissolved Metals	mg/l
Dissolved Mercury ¹	ug/l
pH	Std units
Specific Conductance	umhos/cm

¹ Using trace metal clean methods (e.g., USEPA 1631)

- b. Any additional analyses required by the Board on a case-by-case basis if it is determined that there is a potential for receiving water limits to be exceeded

D. SCHEDULE OF OBSERVATIONS AND MONITORING

The Dischargers are required to perform observations and monitoring according to the schedule in Part B.

E. RECORDS TO BE MAINTAINED

Written reports shall be maintained by the Dischargers or their laboratory, and shall be retained for a minimum of five years. This period of retention shall be extended during the course of any unresolved litigation regarding this discharge or when requested by the Board. Such records shall show the following for each sample:

1. Identity of sample and sample station number.
2. Date and time of sampling and the name of the person performing the sampling.
3. Date and time that analyses are started and completed, and name of the personnel performing the analyses.
4. Complete procedure used, including method of preserving the sample, and the identity and volumes of reagents used.
5. Calculation of results.
6. Results of analyses, and detection limits for each analysis.

F. REPORTS TO BE FILED WITH THE BOARD

1. Written monitoring reports shall be filed each month, by the 30th day of the following month, during which placement of material onto the site occurs.

The reports shall contain the following:

a. Letter of Transmittal

A letter transmitting the essential points in each report should accompany each report. Such a letter shall include a discussion of any Waste Discharge Requirement violations found during the last report period, and actions taken or planned for correcting the violations. If the Dischargers have previously submitted a detailed time schedule for correcting requirement violations, a reference to the correspondence transmitting such schedule will be satisfactory. If no violations have occurred in the last report period this shall be stated in the letter of transmittal. Monitoring reports and the letter transmitting the monitoring reports shall be signed by the duly authorized representative of the Carneros River Ranch responsible for the overall operation of the facility from which the discharge originates. The letter shall contain a statement by the official, under penalty of perjury, that to the best of the signer's knowledge the report is true, complete, and correct.

- b. The quantity and locations of dredged material placed at the site and a description of maintenance activities occurring during the reporting period.
- c. A map or aerial photograph showing observation and monitoring stations.
- d. Laboratory statements of results of analyses specified in Part B; the director of the laboratory whose name appears on the laboratory certification shall supervise all analytical work in his/her laboratory and shall sign all reports of such work submitted to the Board.

- i. The methods of analyses and detection limits must be appropriate for the expected concentrations. Specific methods of analyses must be identified. If methods other than EPA approved methods or Standard Methods are used, the exact methodology must be submitted for review and approved by the Executive Officer.
 - ii. In addition to the results of the analyses, laboratory quality assurance/quality control (QA/QC) information must be included in the monitoring report. The laboratory QA/QC information should include the method, equipment and analytical detection limits; the recovery rates; an explanation for any recovery rate that is less than the recovery acceptance limits specified in the USEPA method procedures or the laboratory's acceptance limits, if they are more stringent than those in the USEPA method procedures; the results of equipment and method blanks; the results of spiked and surrogate samples; the frequency of quality control analysis; and the name and qualifications of the person(s) performing the analyses.
- e. A summary and certification of completion of all Standard Observations for the facility.
2. By March 1 of each year, the Discharger shall submit an annual report to the Regional Board covering the previous calendar year activities. This report shall contain the following:
 - a. Summaries of the quantities and locations of dredged material placement and the source of the dredged material.
 - b. An estimate of the total volume of decant water generated from dewatering the dredged material.
 - c. A summary of site maintenance activities.
 - d. Tabular and graphical summaries of the monitoring data obtained during the previous year.
 - e. A description of the compliance record and corrective actions taken or planned which may be needed to bring the Discharger into full compliance with the Waste Discharge Requirements.
3. **Contingency Reporting**

A report to the Executive Officer and Regional Board case manager shall be made by telephone of any accidental discharge of whatever origin immediately after it is discovered. A written report shall be filed with the Board within five days thereafter. This report shall contain the following information:

 - a. A map showing the location(s) of discharge(s);
 - b. Approximate flow rate;
 - c. Nature of effects, i.e., all pertinent observations and analyses; and
 - d. Corrective measures underway or proposed.

PART B: MONITORING AND OBSERVATION SCHEDULE

A. DESCRIPTION OF OBSERVATION AND MONITORING STATIONS

1. **Receiving water standard observations** shall be made along the length of the drainage ditch on the west side of the Carneros River Ranch property within a 100 foot radius of the decant water discharge outfalls.
2. **Site standard observations** shall be made along the entire length of the perimeter containment berms of the North West and North Central fields and along the entire length of the dredged material transport pipeline.
3. Grab samples of water for **decant water monitoring** shall be taken on the inboard side of the North West and North Central fields discharge weir spillways.
4. Grab samples of water for **shallow groundwater monitoring** shall be taken at 5 shallow observation wells (SOW), 2 drainage ditch, and 1 adjacent marsh locations, as shown on the attached Figure 1 of this Self-Monitoring and Reporting Plan.

B. SCHEDULE OF OBSERVATIONS AND MONITORING

1. The schedule of observations and monitoring is provided in Table 3, below:

Table 3. Observations and Monitoring Schedule for the Carneros River Ranch Dredged Material Placement on North West and North Central Fields

Observation/Monitoring Frequency	Type	Location	Reporting Frequency (Due Date)
Daily during dredged material placement episodes	Site standard observations	Along perimeter containment berms of field(s) in use and along slurry pipeline	Monthly (30 th of the month following the reporting period)
Daily during discharge of decant water	Receiving water standard observations	Drainage ditch within a 100-foot radius of each weir box	Monthly (Same as above)
Once per dredged material placement episode prior to the initial discharge, then twice weekly for the remainder of the episode	Decant water monitoring ¹	Grab sample from inboard side of discharge weir	Monthly (Same as above)
Monthly	Shallow groundwater monitoring ²	Grab samples from 5 SOW and 3 drainage ditch locations (Figure 1)	Monthly (Same as above)
All of the above as appropriate for the type of monitoring performed	All of the above	All of the above	Annual Summary Report (March 1 of the following year)

¹ See Table 1. Standard Analyses for Decant Water Monitoring in Part A, Section C.7.

² See Table 2. Standard Analyses for Shallow Groundwater Monitoring in Part A, Section C.8.

2. The Discharger shall submit decant water monitoring results to Regional Board staff prior to the initial discharge of decant water for each dredging episode. Decant water shall not be allowed to discharge from the fields until staff has concurred that monitoring data demonstrates compliance with the decant water discharge limits for pollutants listed under Provision D.2.
3. The Discharger may submit a written request to reduce the frequency of monitoring for constituents listed in Table 1 based on monitoring data collected and analyzed according to the conditions of this SMP which demonstrate that the temporal variability of these constituents is low enough to justify less frequent monitoring. The request should include a proposed revised monitoring schedule for the subject constituents. The request and schedule must be approved in writing by the Executive Officer prior to implementation.
4. All reports shall be submitted to the Regional Board case manager at:

California Regional Water Quality Control Board
San Francisco Bay Region
1515 Clay Street, Suite 1400
Oakland, CA 94612

I, Loretta K. Barsamian, Executive Officer, hereby certify that the foregoing Self-Monitoring Program:

1. Has been developed in accordance with the procedure set forth in this Board's Resolution No. 73-16 in order to obtain data and document compliance with waste discharge requirements established in Regional Board Order No. R2-2003-XXXX.
2. Was adopted by the Board on August 20, 2003; and
3. May be reviewed at any time subsequent to the effective date upon written notice from the Executive Officer or request from the Dischargers, and revisions will be ordered by the Executive Officer or the Board.

Loretta K. Barsamian
Executive Officer

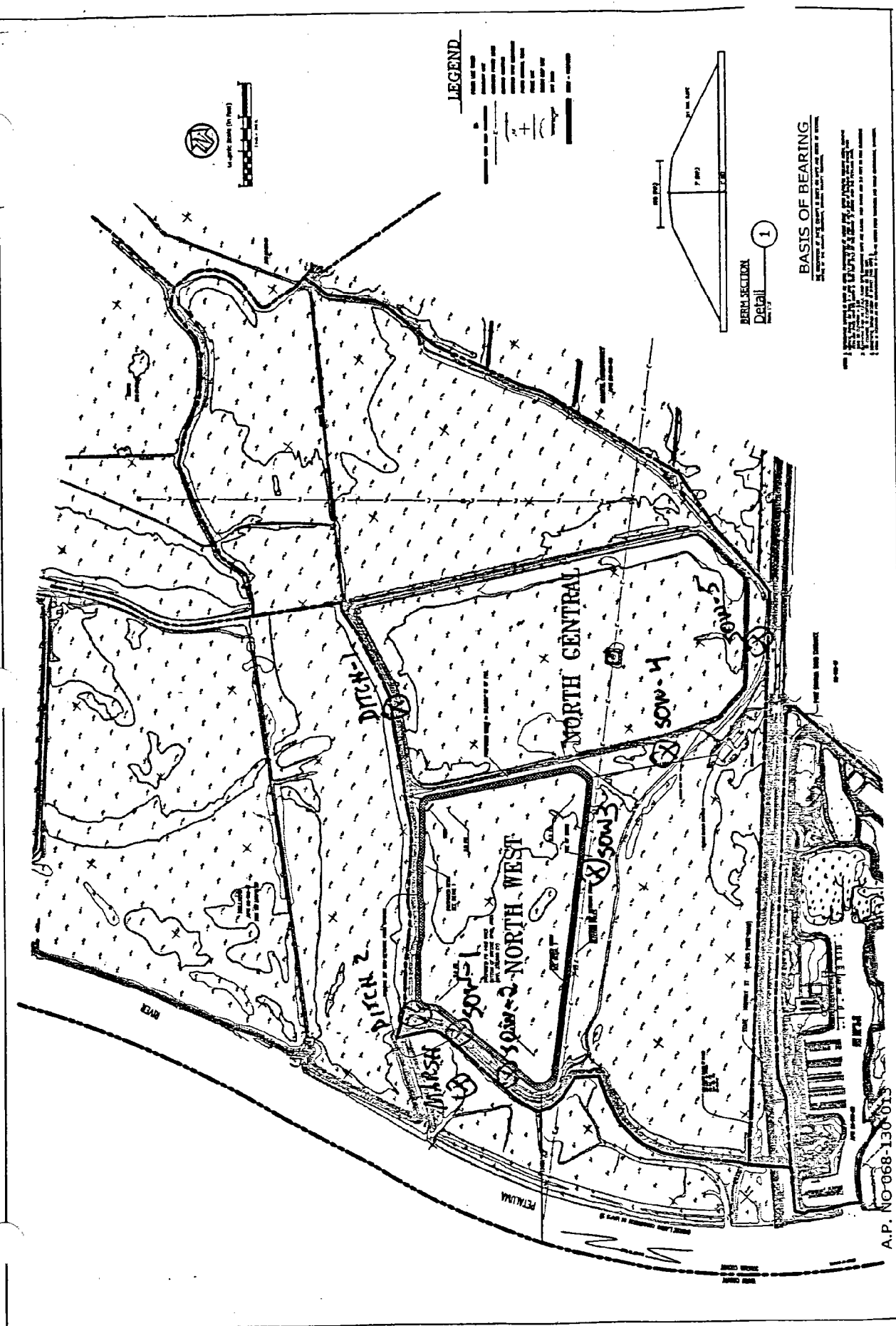


Figure 1. Shallow Groundwater Sampling Locations

**B – DRAFT NEGATIVE DECLARATION
AND DRAFT INITIAL STUDY**

DRAFT NEGATIVE DECLARATION

PROJECT PROPONENT: Carneros River Ranch

PROJECT TITLE: Carneros River Ranch North West and North Central Fields Dredged Material and Fill Placement

PROJECT LOCATION: 275 Sears Point Road, Petaluma, California 94953

LEAD AGENCY: San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board
1515 Clay Street, Suite 1400
Oakland, CA 94612

BRIEF DESCRIPTION: The proposed project consists of importing approximately 663,000 cubic yards (cy) of dredged material to create approximately 180 acres of agricultural fields on a 540 acre ranch for the purpose of growing silage. The fill will be placed within a 7 foot high berm created from native soils excavated within and adjacent to the project area. Placement of fill to create the field is necessary to elevate the land from an average - 2 foot National Geodetic Vertical Datum (NGVD) elevation where soils and groundwater are saline to an elevation of approximately + 2 feet NGVD where groundwater is sufficiently fresh to sustain agricultural crops.

DETERMINATION: The conclusion of the Initial Study is that the project would not cause a significant impact on the environment. A NEGATIVE DECLARATION has been prepared.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT EFFECT ON THE ENVIRONMENT: Based on the Initial Study of possible significant effects of the proposed project, it has been determined that the project will not have a significant adverse effect on the environment. Preparation of an EIR is not required.

DECLARATION OF COMPLIANCE WITH THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY CONTROL ACT: This document has been prepared in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act.

DRAFT – UNSIGNED

Loretta K. Barsamian
Executive Officer

Date

DRAFT DETERMINATION:

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

- ☒ I find that the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- ☐ I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- ☐ I find that the proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.
- ☐ I find that the proposed project MAY have a "potentially significant impact" or "potentially significant unless mitigated" impact on the environment, but at least one effect 1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and 2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. An ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.
- ☐ I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project, nothing further is required.

DRAFT – UNSIGNED

Loretta K. Barsamian
Executive Officer

Date

Carneros River Ranch Grading Project – North West and North Central Fields

DRAFT Initial Study of Environmental Impact

1. Project title:

Carneros River Ranch Dredged Material and Fill Placement

2. Lead agency name and address:

San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board

3. Contact person and phone number:

Elizabeth Christian 510.622.2335

4. Project location:

275 Sears Point Road, Petaluma, California 94953

5. Project sponsor's name and address:

Carneros River Ranch
c/o BBRRBR, LLC
2330 Marinship, Suite 301
Sausalito, California 94965

6. General plan designation:

Agricultural

7. Zoning:

Agricultural

8. Description of project:

The proposed project consists of the importation of approximately 663,000 cubic yards (cy) of fill (dredged material and other sources) on two existing agricultural fields (the North West and North Central fields) at the Carneros River Ranch in southern Sonoma County. The fill would raise elevations on the two fields by approximately four feet. The fields are used for the purpose of growing silage. The fill would be placed within seven-foot high berms created from native soils excavated within and adjacent to each of the agricultural fields. The North Central Field received approximately 320,000 cy of dredged material fill in 1998, and the original berms are still in place. New berms would be constructed for the North West Field. Placement of fill to create the field is necessary to elevate the land from an average -2 foot National Geodetic Vertical Datum (NGVD) elevation where soils and groundwater are saline to an elevation of approximately + 2 feet NGVD where groundwater is sufficiently fresh to sustain agricultural crops.

Initially, fill for the project would come from two sources: (1) dredged material from Bel Marin Keys, a waterfront community in northeastern Marin County, and (2) dredged material from Port Sonoma Marina, located just south of the Carneros River Ranch, across Highway 37. These two sources are expected to provide approximately 155,000 cy of fill.

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The source of the remaining fill as yet to be determined. Analysis, pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act, of dredging at Bel Marin Keys and Port Sonoma Marina will occur separately from this analysis.

9. Surrounding land uses and setting:

The proposed project area is located with the approximately 540-acre Carneros River Ranch in the Sears Point area of unincorporated Petaluma in southern Sonoma County. This area is known as Lakeville. The Petaluma River courses along the western side of the ranch. State Highway 37 bounds the southern boundary of the site. Agricultural land is situated to east and north of the subject property.

The subject property is subject to an agricultural conservation easement benefiting the Sonoma Land Trust, limiting use of the property to activities "producing food and fiber." Elevation of the subject property ranges from -2 feet NGVD to +2 feet NGVD. Drainage ditches to the north and west of the project area convey drainage to a pump station that intakes and transports flows to the river. A series of levees protect the ranch from inundation resulting from storm and river water. The entire ranch and surrounding properties are located within the 100-year floodplain.

Soils on the subject property consist of desiccated marine clay and silt, commonly known as bay mud, and below a very thin layer of organic material. The bay mud extends to an extreme depth. Tests of this soil indicate that it is highly plastic; consequently, it has a relatively low permeability.

Vegetation within the project area includes oats, barley, and exotic weeds. The drainage ditches contain bull rushes and various riparian grasses. There are no shrubs or trees in either the project area or the ditches.

10. Other public agencies whose approval is required (e.g., permits, financing approval, or participation agreement):

The County of Sonoma has issued a Grading Permit for the proposed project, through a ministerial action. The proposed project will require Waste Discharge Requirements and Water Quality Certification from the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board and a Nationwide Permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED:

No environmental factors would be potentially affected by the project, as indicated by the checklist on the following pages.

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EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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I. AESTHETICS

Would the project:

- | | | | | |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| A) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|

The County of Sonoma designates a strip of the southern extent of the ranch adjacent to Highway 37 as a scenic resource within which the height and design of the built environment is limited. The project area lies hundreds of feet to the north of this zone. Growth of silage on this field would continue as it will on the surrounding land. The project would be visually imperceptible from off-site locations. Therefore, the fill would not affect scenic vistas.

- | | | | | |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| B) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|

As previously indicated, there are no trees or shrubs on the ranch. There are also no rock outcrops or historic buildings within a scenic highway on the ranch. Therefore, the proposed project would have no effect on these types of resources.

- | | | | | |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| C) Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|

Please refer to subsections (A) and (B), above.

- | | | | | |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| D) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|

The proposal has no components that would produce light or cause glare,. Therefore, the proposal would have no light or glare effects on visual resources.

II. AGRICULTURE RESOURCES: In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Dept. of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland.

Would the project:

- A) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use? ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

The State designates the Carneros River Ranch as secondary. The proposed project would elevate existing silage fields within the ranch from a below sea level elevation by approximately four feet to reduce soil salinity and, therefore, increase crop productivity. The productivity of silage cultivation increased on the North Central Field after placement of dredged material in 1998. The project sponsor anticipates that increased crop production would continue at the North Central field and would also occur at the North West field. Therefore, the proposed project is expected to have the *beneficial* effect of increasing the productivity of the subject farmland.

- B) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract? ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

As previously indicated, the proposed fill of the field would enhance agricultural productivity by raising the site above sea level and out of the influence of saline groundwater that inhibits crop production. Therefore, the proposed project would be consistent with the agricultural zoning for the subject property and with the terms of the conservation easement burdening the parcel that allows uses producing food and fiber.

- C) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use? ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

For the reasons stated in subsection (B) immediately above, the proposed project would not result in the conversion of farmland to a nonagricultural use. To the contrary, the proposal would have the *beneficial* effect of promoting agricultural use of the site by elevating it above the influence of salt water to increase crop production.

III. AIR QUALITY -- Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations.

Would the project:

- A) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan? ☐ ☐ ☒ ☐

The construction of a berm and fill of a field with dredge materials on a remote agricultural ranch would not conflict or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan.

During project implementation, air emissions and dust could potentially be generated by earth-moving vehicles during construction of containment berms. This impact would not significantly conflict with or obstruct implementation of any air quality plans. This potential impact would be mitigated by implementation of an air quality control measure to minimize generation of airborne particulates: a water truck that would follow each machine as it performs its work and spray the work area. This practice would lower dust generated from the project to a level far below normal agricultural field activities such as tilling soil or reaping silage, both of which are permitted in agricultural operations with little or no mitigation.

- B) Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation? ☐ ☐ ☒ ☐

The proposed project would entail the preparation of an agricultural consistent with air quality standards. See response to subsection (A) above.

- C) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)? ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

See response to subsection (A), above.

- D) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations? ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

The remote project location is situated at least a mile from human habitation in this agricultural community. There are no sensitive receptors in the vicinity.

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- E) Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?

☐☐☐☒

No element of the proposed project involves the use of odiferous materials or the generation of odors. As previously indicated, this project site is situated in a remote agricultural area at least a mile from human habitation. Therefore, the proposal would not create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people.

IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Would the project:

- A) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?

☐☐☐☒

The biotic assessment prepared for the proposed project indicates that there are no endangered or threatened species on the site.

- B) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Game or US Fish and Wildlife Service?

☐☐☐☒

The biotic assessment prepared for the project concludes that the proposal would not affect riparian habitat or other sensitive natural communities because the project area is located far away from the wetland in the western ditch and the remainder of the site consists of highly and repeatedly disturbed hay fields.

The project would result in the construction of berms and the deposition of dredge material on approximately 180 acres of hayfield/grassland. This would result in the temporary conversion of hayfield/grassland to dredge material for approximately 1 to 2 years until farming activities convert the dredge materials to hayfield/grassland. This same cycle was observed when the North Central Field was used for dredge material disposal in 1998.

This is a temporary, non-significant impact. There is a significant area in the region dominated by hayfield/grassland, an exotic habitat type and the temporary conversion of the project site will not affect local ecology significantly.

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- C) Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means? ☐ ☐ ☒ ☐

As previously indicated, the only Section 404 wetland areas on-site consist of the drainage ditch along the western edge of the site. This delineation was reviewed and approved by the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers (Clyde Davis, Corps San Francisco District, personal communication).

For the placement of dredged material, the project would result in the temporary placement of a pipeline from the dredging location to the North West or North Central fields. The route of the pipeline from any dredging site would likely go through Basin 1 of Port Sonoma Marina, come onshore just east of the marina office building, through a maintenance area under Highway 37, then along the levee, over the ditch, and into the fields. There are low quality marsh habitats along this route. This would result in temporary (3 to 5 weeks duration), construction-related impacts to the marsh and marsh wildlife. Neither the marsh nor marsh wildlife are likely to be directly impacted by the pipe as it will be laid slowly and the marsh vegetation can withstand the temporary impacts. Indirect impacts consist of noise and the intrusion of a non-natural object in the marsh habitat.

This impact is temporary and not significant. Marsh wildlife will move away from the pipeline during pipe placement and move back into the marsh during its use. Regular, mechanical noise tends to be accepted by marsh wildlife and previous pipeline placement did not appear to have impacts local marshes or the marsh wildlife.

- D) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites? ☐ ☐ ☒ ☐

The biotic assessment prepared for the proposal determined that the project would not affect the movement of any native or migratory fish or wildlife species because the project area is not situated near the wetland areas in the western ditch and because the site is repeatedly and highly disturbed from silage farming.

- E) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance? ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

The County of Sonoma has no policies or ordinances such a tree preservation ordinance applicable to the proposed project. There are no trees on the subject property.

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- F) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan? ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

There are no Habitat Conservation Plans, Natural Community Conservation Plans or other similar plans applicable to the subject property.

V. CULTURAL RESOURCES

Would the project:

- A) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in § 15064.5? ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

The subject property is agricultural farmland. No buildings or other types of development that could be characterized as historic exist at the project location.

- B) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to § 15064.5? ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

The project sponsor has no knowledge of archaeological resources on the subject parcel that has been repeatedly and intensely disturbed by silage production.

- C) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature? ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

The project sponsor has no knowledge of paleontological resources on the subject parcel that has been repeatedly and intensely disturbed by silage production.

- D) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries? ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

The project sponsor has no knowledge of human remains on the subject parcel that has been repeatedly and intensely disturbed by silage production.

VI. GEOLOGY AND SOILS

Would the project:

- A) Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:

- 1) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42. ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

A geotechnical engineer has performed field tests and reviewed professional literature to generate recommendations for construction of the berm and placement of the fill to elevate the field. His report indicates that no special measures are required to address the effects of earthquakes.

- 2) Strong seismic ground shaking? ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

A geotechnical engineer has performed field tests and reviewed professional literature to generate recommendations for construction of the berm and placement of the fill to elevate the field. His report indicates that no special measures are required to address the effects of seismic ground shaking.

- 3) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction? ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

A geotechnical engineer has performed field tests and reviewed professional literature to generate recommendations for construction of the berm and placement of the fill to elevate the field. His report indicates that no special measures are required to address the effects of seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction.

- 4) Landslides? ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

A geotechnical engineer has performed field tests and reviewed professional literature to generate recommendations for construction of the berm and placement of the fill to elevate the field. His report indicates that no special measures are required to address the effects of landslides.

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- B) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil? ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

A geotechnical engineer has performed field tests and reviewed professional literature to generate recommendations for construction of the berm and placement of the fill to elevate the field. His report indicates that no special measures are required to address the effects of soil erosion or the loss of topsoil.

- C) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse? ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

As the geotechnical report indicates, the subject property consists of bay mud at least 60 feet deep. Standard geotechnical practices would be followed during construction of improvements and placement of fill. No specific recommendations are required to construct the berm or place the fill.

- D) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial risks to life or property? ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

Please refer to subsection (C) above.

- E) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water? ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

No septic system is required for the proposed project.

VII. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

Would the project:

- A) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials? ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

The proposed project would entail the elevation of an agricultural field to increase crop production. No hazardous materials are necessary to accomplish this task.

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- B) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment? ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

Please refer to subsection (A) above.

- C) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school? ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

The subject property consists of a remote agricultural site not near any school.

- D) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment? ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

The subject property is not included on the referenced list.

- E) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area? ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

The subject property is not restricted under an airport land use plan. Moreover, the elevation of the agricultural fields would not affect air traffic.

- F) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area? ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

There is one private airstrip on the Dixon ranch approximately 3 miles to the southeast of the subject property. The elevation of the agricultural fields would not affect air traffic. Ranch workers physically occupy the field for very brief and intermittent periods. Project workers would be present during elevation of the field but only for the anticipated 2 to 3 week construction period. To the recollection of the project sponsor, no planes have crashed or landed on the subject property.

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- G) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?

☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

The proposed elevation of the agricultural fields would not interfere with any adopted emergency response plan.

- H) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands?

☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

As previously indicated, the subject property is an agricultural field. Elevation of the site would not expose people or structures to increased dangers of wildland fires.

VIII. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

Would the project:

- A) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?

☐ ☐ ☒ ☐

The project does not anticipate the need for discharge of water from the project site, as dredged sediments would dry through evaporation. However, the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board will issue Waste Discharge Requirements and Water Quality Certification that will specify the manner in which any runoff would be discharged (if necessary), and will require testing prior to discharge to ensure that any runoff meets water quality standards.

- B) Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level which would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)?

☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

The fill would not provide a barrier to ground water recharge.

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- C) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site? ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

The project would not change the course of local ditches or the Petaluma River. Water associated with the dredged sediments would be dried by evaporation or would be released in a controlled manner and would not alter site hydrology. Sediments placed at the site would be contained by a berm and would not result in substantial erosion on- or off-site.

- D) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site? ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

Please refer to subsection (C) above.

- E) Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff? ☐ ☐ ☒ ☐

Please refer to subsections (A) and (C), above.

- F) Otherwise substantially degrade water quality? ☐ ☐ ☒ ☐

Please refer to subsection (A), above.

- G) Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map? ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

Although the subject property lies within the 100-year flood plain, it would not entail any housing construction. Therefore, the proposed project would not place housing within the 100-year flood plain.

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- H) Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures which would impede or redirect flood flows? ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

Review of Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM), the subject property lies within the 100-year flood plain. The proposed project would elevate agricultural fields but would not involve the erection of structures. A hydraulic analysis prepared by Wood Rogers (Exhibit B) concludes that the fill would not significantly displace capacity with the flood plain because regional hydrology is controlled by the San Francisco Bay not the more limited Petaluma River watershed. The County of Sonoma reviewed and approved this analysis in its review and issuance of Grading Permit for the project.

- I) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam? ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

Please refer to subsection (H), above. Additionally, the subject property is not situated within an area of potential dam inundation.

- J) Inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow? ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

Please refer to subsection (H) above.

IX. LAND USE AND PLANNING

Would the project:

- A) Physically divide an established community? ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

The proposed elevation of the agricultural fields at the Carneros River Ranch will not divide the rural Lakeville community.

- B) Conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to the general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect? ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

The County of Sonoma has reviewed and approved of the project by issuing a Grading Permit because it conforms to agricultural zoning uses and engineering standards.

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- C) Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan? ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

The biotic assessment of the proposed project concludes that the subject property is not within and the proposed project does not conflict with a habitat conservation plan or a natural community conservation plan.

X. MINERAL RESOURCES

Would the project:

- A) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state? ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

Review of County and State literature indicates that the subject property contains no minerals of regional or Statewide importance.

- B) Result in the loss of availability of a locally-important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan? ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

Please refer to subsection (A) above.

XI. NOISE

Would the project result in:

- A) Exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies? ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

Construction equipment would temporarily generate noise but no more than regular use of agricultural equipment on this remote site at least one mile from human habitation.

- B) Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels? ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

Please refer to subsection (A) above.

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- C) A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?

☐☐☐☒

Please refer to subsection (A) above.

- D) A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?

☐☐☐☒

Please refer to subsection (A) above.

- E) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?

☐☐☐☒

The subject property is not located within two miles of a public or public use airport.

- F) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?

☐☐☐☒

Although there are private airstrips within the Lakeville vicinity, the proposed project does not involve human occupancy of the site. Therefore, there would be no occupants of the site who would be affected by air traffic noise.

XII. POPULATION AND HOUSING

Would the project:

- A) Induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?

☐☐☐☒

The proposed project would have no direct or indirect contribution to population growth. To the extent that the agricultural productivity of the site increases, it would reinforce preservation of the property in its rural state, preventing sprawl.

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- B) Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere? ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

No housing would be displaced by the proposed project.

- C) Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere? ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

No one inhabits the subject property. Therefore, elevation of the agricultural field would not displace anyone and would not require the construction of replacement housing elsewhere.

XIII. PUBLIC SERVICES

Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services:

- A) Fire protection? ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

The subject property lies within the Lakeville fire protection area. Volunteer firefighters and Infineon fire apparatus provide service to the ranch. Elevation of the agricultural field would not increase demands on fire protection service that is adequate to serve the ranch.

- B) Police protection? ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

The proposed project would not affect Sonoma County Sheriff's Department currently adequate service to the ranch.

- C) Schools? ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

Elevation of the agricultural field on the uninhabited ranch would not affect school service.

- D) Parks? ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

There are no parks in the vicinity of the subject property. The elevation of the agricultural field would not affect parks.

- E) Other public facilities? ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

Not applicable.

XIV. RECREATION

- A) Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated? ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

There are no parks in the vicinity of the subject property. The elevation of the agricultural field would not affect parks.

- B) Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment? ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

Please refer to subsection (A) above.

XV. TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC

Would the project:

- A) Cause an increase in traffic which is substantial in relation to the existing traffic load and capacity of the street system (i.e., result in a substantial increase in either the number of vehicle trips, the volume to capacity ratio on roads, or congestion at intersections)? ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

The proposed project will not cause a substantial increase in traffic. Project-related vehicles would consist of an excavator, a bulldozer, and a water truck to be stored on-site until completion of the project. Three operators would travel to the project area in separate automobiles for a maximum two week construction period. The project would result in a temporary increase of 6.42 average daily trips (ADT) over a two week period on two local highways (116 and 37) that experience 10,000 ADT. Therefore, the short term traffic effect would be short term and insignificant since it will only amount to 0.0006% or less of local roadway existing ADT.

There would be no long term traffic effects attributable to the project. While the elevation of the agricultural field would increase crop productivity, ranch vehicle trip generation is not anticipated to increase because additional harvested silage would be placed in surplus barn storage.

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- B) Exceed, either individually or cumulatively, a level of service standard established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways? ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

Please refer to subsection (A) above.

- C) Result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks? ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

The proposed project would not have any effect on air traffic patterns.

- D) Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)? ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

Development of the proposed project would not require and change in use or design existing internal or external circulation improvements.

- E) Result in inadequate emergency access? ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

The subject 540 acre ranch has direct access to Highway 37 and the Petaluma River. Indirect access to Highway 37 is available underneath the adjacent overpass and through a marina.

- F) Result in inadequate parking capacity? ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

The existing ranch compound has ample parking capacity for existing and construction-related vehicles.

- G) Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation (e.g., bus turnouts, bicycle racks)? ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

While there are no alternative transportation policies affected by the proposed project, there is ample space within the ranch compound to accommodate bicycle parking.

XVI. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS

Would the project:

- A) Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board? ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

The subject property is currently uninhabited. The proposed project entails the elevation of agricultural fields to increase crop productivity. Therefore, wastewater treatment requirements are not applicable to this project.

- B) Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects? ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

Please refer to subsection (A) above.

- C) Require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects? ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

As previously indicated, the project would include a 7 foot high berm that would contain completely hydrated dredge spoils used to elevate the field. Excess moisture would evaporate rather than drain to local ditches. Therefore, new stormwater facilities will not be required.

- D) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed? ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

Water for construction activities would be supplied by the adjacent marina.

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- E) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?

☐☐☐☒

Please refer to subsection (A) above.

- F) Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?

☐☐☐☒

There would be no need generated by the project for use of a landfill.

- G) Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?

☐☐☐☐

As previously indicated, the ranch is uninhabited and is not expected to generate solid waste. Any minor waste generated by the proposed project would be disposed at Redwood Sanitary Landfill where there is sufficient capacity to accept the waste.

XVII. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

- | | | | | |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| A) Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| B) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| C) Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

The following documents are incorporated by reference:

The California Environmental Quality Act and Guidelines;
The Sonoma County General Plan;
The Sonoma County Code
Zentner and Zentner Biotic Assessment (Appendix A)
Wood Rogers Impact Analysis (Appendix B)

C – RESPONSE TO COMMENTS

**CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
SAN FRANCISCO BAY REGION
1515 Clay Street, Suite 1400
Oakland, CA 94612**

RESPONSE TO COMMENTS

**TENTATIVE ORDER: WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS, WATER
QUALITY CERTIFICATION AND RESCISSION OF ORDER 98-012 FOR:
CARNEROS RIVER RANCH NORTH WEST AND NORTH CENTRAL FIELDS
DREDGED MATERIAL AND FILL PLACEMENT**

This document summarizes the Regional Board staff's responses to public comments on the above-referenced Tentative Order. The Tentative Order was transmitted for public comment on July 3, and the public comment period closed on July 25, 2003. Each comment is summarized and followed by staff's response. For brevity, many of the comments are paraphrased. The Tentative Order was revised in response to the received comments. In addition, the Tentative Order was revised to fix minor typographical errors.

One comment letter was received by FAX on July 24, 2003, from the Marin Audubon Society (MAS).

Comment 1: Placing dredged material fill in diked historic baylands such as the project site is an incremental incentive to future development and precludes future wetland restoration on the property.

Response: Board staff shares the commentor's concern regarding potential conversion of diked former baylands and acknowledges that this concern was also expressed in 1998. Since 1998 staff has further researched this concern. The California Coastal Conservancy funded encumbrance of the Carneros River Ranch property with an agricultural conservation easement held to the benefit of the Sonoma Land Trust. The easement restricts use of the property to "the production of food and fiber." Trust counsel has advised the property owners that converting the site to wetlands may be inconsistent with the terms of the easement and conversion to any other land use would be virtually impossible. If any land use changes were proposed that would be the appropriate time to discuss this issue with the appropriate land use agencies.

Comment 2: No information has been provided to support the claim that raising the existing elevation of the two parcels using dredged material from other locations around the bay will provide any agricultural benefits.

Response: The Ranch has submitted to staff a report titled, "Port Sonoma and Carneros River Ranch Dredge Materials and Agricultural Enhancement Report," dated May 2003, which documents that three crops: salt tolerant barley, oat hay, and wheat were grown in succession between the winter of 1999 and the summer of 2002. The report states that yields for the three crops were at least as good as or better than regional yields for the same crops, some of which typically produce low yields in diked bayland.

Comment 3: The Draft Negative Declaration and the Biotic Assessment do not present a consistent project description in terms of the number of acres proposed for filling with dredged material.

Response: Staff concurs with MAS and have corrected the Draft Negative Declaration. The Biotic Assessment included portions of the ranch property in the North West Field (Field 2) outside the actual dredged material disposal footprint. The project area for the North West Field should be 60 acres, not 90 acres. The North Central Field project area comprises approximately 120 acres. The total project area should equal the sum of the two agricultural fields, or, 180 acres.

Comment 4: The method of transporting dredged material to the ranch is not specified, nor are any potential environmental impacts associated with dredged material transport mentioned.

Response: As indicated in the project description, the two initial sources of dredged material, Bel Marin Keys North Lagoon and Port Sonoma Marina will deliver sediment to the ranch site by pipeline. Analysis of the Bel Marin Keys dredging project, which includes transport via pipeline to Carneros River Ranch, is occurring separately from this Draft Negative Declaration pursuant to CEQA, with the Bel Marin Keys Community Services District (BMKCSD) as the lead agency. A proposed mitigated negative declaration and expanded initial study was circulated in mid-June by the BMKCSD. No significant impacts related to the transport of dredged material via pipeline to Carneros River Ranch were identified in that study.

Comment 5: The Draft Negative Declaration does not provide adequate documentation for the impacts related to temporary placement of the transport pipeline in the marsh.

Response: Staff have reviewed the available literature on temporary placement of pipelines to transport dredge sediment in wetlands. Adverse impacts occur where pipelines obstruct movement of wildlife and may have an adverse impact on nesting. The placement of the pipeline and time of use (prior to mating season) have been designed to avoid these potential impacts/